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V. Jones



**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

**Serial Number**

**Appn. Filed**

**Applicants**.....Michael P.C Watts

**Appn. Title**..... Dual Network with Distributed Firewall For Network Security

**Examiner**

Mailed 3/8/2001 Portola Valley CA

**Information Disclosure Statement**

Commissioner Of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir

Attached is a completed Form PTO 1449 and copies of the pertinent parts of the references cited thereon.

**Woodcock** describes the fundamentals of packet switching network that are typically used in this invention.

**Benton** describes typical firewalls that are used to protect private networks at the point of connection to the Internet.

**Nesset USP 5,968,176** describes using multiple firewalls distributed throughout a network with a management system to ensure that each firewall has the correct information to protect each node. The firewall operates at multiple layers of the communication process to provide protection. In the Nesset invention, the communications from the remote user and the communications within the private network pass along the same media and the software in the firewalls are used to limit the access of the remote user.

**Dowd** 6,141,755 describes using an alternative for a connection oriented communications such as ATM in which the route to be used for the communication is checked and approved as an alternative to a typical firewall in which each packet is approved. In the Dowd invention, the communications from the remote user and the communications within the private network pass along the same media and the software in the firewalls is relied on to limit the access of the remote user.

None of the references show a dual network with a switch at the node to provide secure remote access as disclosed in this invention.

Very respectfully

  
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ENC: PTO 1449 & References